

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 06122 251251Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----040389 251255Z /14

O 251242Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5986  
INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA

S E C R E T CAIRO 06122

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, EG, CY  
SUBJ: CYPRUS AMBASSADOR SOTERIADES' PROPOSED EFFORT TO  
- SALVAGE EGYPT/CYPRUS RELATIONS

REF: (A) CAIRO 5884, (B) NICOSIA 496, (C) CAIRO 5761

1. AS INDICATED REF A, I SHARE EMBASSY NICOSIA'S VIEW THAT WE SHOULD NOT OFFICIALLY INVOLVE OURSELVES IN CURRENT EGYPT/CYPRUS DISPUTE FLOWING FROM LARNACA AFFAIR. DEPARTMENT AND OTHER ADDRESSEES SHOULD KNOW, HOWEVER, ABOUT AN INFORMAL REPEAT INFORMAL EXCHANGE I HAVE HAD WITH CYPRIOT AMBASSADOR SOTERIADES AND FONMIN KAMEL.

2. I HAVE KNOWN SOTERIADES FOR A GOOD MANY YEARS AS A DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUE. HE IS ALSO THE DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN CAIRO. HENCE, WHEN I HEARD TWO EVENINGS AGO THAT HE MIGHT BE LEAVING THE FOLLOWING DAY, I TELEPHONED HIM TO SAY GOOD-BYE AND, ON A PERSONAL BASIS, TO OFFER TO BE OF ANY HELP TO HIS FAMILY IF HE DECIDED TO KEEP THEM HERE. (HIS CHILDREN ARE ENROLLED AT CAC.)

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3. IN COURSE OF TELECON, SOTERIADES VOICED PERSONAL VIEW THAT IF GOE WOULD PERMIT HIM TO RETURN TO CAIRO, HE WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT HE COULD PERSUADE CYPRIOT AUTHORITIES TO EXTRADITE THE TWO PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS TO EGYPT OR TO EXECUTE THEM IN CYPRUS FOR THE CRIME THEY COMMITTED ON CYPRUS TERRITORY. (SOTERIADES IS PRIVATELY BITTERLY CRITICAL OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE

LARNACA AFFAIR.) HE LAMENTED THE FACT THAT HE HAD BEEN GIVEN NO CHANCE TO MAKE THIS POINT TO SENIOR GOE OFFICIALS AND ASKED IF I WOULD CONVEY HIS VIEWS. I SAID THAT I COULD NOT DO SO OFFICIALLY, BUT EXPECTED TO FLY BY HELICOPTER WITH FONMIN KAMEL TO ISMAILIA THE FOLLOWING DAY (FRIDAY) TO MEET WITH SADAT. IF OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED ITSELF, I WOULD BE WILLING ON PURELY PERSONAL BASIS TO CONVEY SOTERIADES' COMMENTS. I EMPHASIZED I COULD NOT DO SO OFFICIALLY.

4. DURING YESTERDAY'S HELICOPTER RIDE TO ISMAILIA, I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY SOTERIADES' COMMENTS. KAMEL, WHO LIKE MINSTATE BUTROUS GHALI BELIEVES GOE SHOULD NOT HAVE BROKEN RELATIONS, EXPRESSED APPRECIATION. HE SAID HE KNEW HOW MUCH SOTERIADES HAS DONE FOR EGYPTIAN/CYPRIT RELATIONS THESE PAST TWELVE YEARS AND EXPRESSED PERSONAL REGRET THAT SOTERIADES' LONG MISSION SHOULD END IN THIS FASHION. HE UNDERTOOK TO MENTION SOTERIADES' COMMENTS TO SADAT AND, AFTER ATHERTON AND I HAD SAID GOOD-BYE TO SADAT, HE STAYED BEHIND TO DO SO.

5. SUBSEQUENTLY, ON THE HELICOPTER COMING BACK TO CAIRO, KAMEL TOLD ME THAT SADAT INDICATED SOTERIADES COULD "COME BACK THE NEXT DAY, THE NEXT WEEK OR ANY TIME" SO LONG AS HE CAME BACK WITH AGREEMENT TO EXTRADITE THE TERRORISTS TO EGYPT OR WITH THE NEWS THAT CYPRUS  
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HAD EXECUTED THEM. KAMEL INDICATED THAT HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO MY CONVEYING THIS TO SOTERIADES IN SAME INFORMAL FASHION.

6. I DID SO YESTERDAY AFTERNOON. SOTERIADES AND HIS FAMILY LEAVE FOR CYPRUS THIS COMING SUNDAY. HE EXPRESSED HIS THANKS AND REITERATED THAT HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD THAT I HAD CONVEYED HIS MESSAGE ON AN INFORMAL BASIS AND THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO OFFICIAL USG INVOLVEMENT. HE REMAINS OPTIMISTIC THAT HE CAN PERSUADE THE CYPRUS AUTHORITIES TO MEET SADAT'S DEMANDS IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. IF HE FAILS, HE DOES NOT INTEND TO TRY TO RETURN TO CAIRO.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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